

ANOTHER HOME POINT LOST

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Corinthian Casuals 1

FOR ALL their endeavours Wycombe Wanderers had only one solitary goal to their credit after 90 minutes of Isthmian League soccer at Loakes Park on Saturday.

At times the football often matched the miserable weather, but Wycombe had their purple patches just as Casuals did.

However, manager-coach Barry Darvill can be far from satisfied with this display, for after dominating the majority of the match Wycombe failed to turn their midfield superiority into goals.

In an effort to improve the side John Beck and Viv Busby returned after missing two matches through injury, and Steve Holmes was given another opportunity to show his worth on the left-flank.

As usual the brunt of the attack fell on Tony Horseman's shoulders and he did not disappoint his followers. In the opening five minutes he headed two crosses from Worley narrowly over.

With Ian Rundle back at centre-half, the Wanderers' defence looked reasonably tight, but it was strange not to see Vince Faulkner in the middle, one of the three players discarded after the defeat inflicted by Woking. John Beck quickly settled and was soon prominent with some fine clearances in the air.

DEFENCE HESITATES

After 20 minutes Corinthian Casuals went into the lead with a goal rather against the run of play, but nevertheless well engineered by Jenkins. The right-back's burst down the middle caught the Wycombe defence in two minds whether to challenge or cover up.

Having beaten Rundle, Jenkins was about to shoot when Eyres raced across to intercept, bringing the Casuals defender down. The referee awarded a penalty which seemed a slightly harsh decision but he had no option as Jenkins looked certain to score. Edmunds made no mistake from the spot.

After 35 minutes Wycombe deservedly equalised after a spell of renewed pressure. A long clearance found Holmes who headed down and across, and as Joy slipped Horseman streaked through the middle to beat Lamb on the run.

A minute later young Holmes had a glorious chance to put Wycombe ahead. Len Worley put the left-winger clean through with a tremendous 30-yard pass, but as Holmes manoeuvred the ball on to his left foot, Joy came across and saved the situation with a sliding tackle.

Just a few minutes before the interval Casuals' Hill nearly caught Maskell out of his goal and the 'keeper did well to concede a corner.

Both sides battled for the vital break-through in the second half but generally the defences were on top. Wycombe did, however, create one splendid opening midway through the second period, as Rundle headed a clearance back into the Casuals area, Holmes flicked on and Samuels after beating 'keeper Lamb to the ball blazed over.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Eyres; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, V. Busby, A. Horseman, S. Holmes.

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TENACIOUS defence earned Corinthians a well-deserved point, for most of the constructive forward moves came from the speedier Wycombe attack, inspired largely by inside forwards Samuels and Horseman. And when a penalty, converted by Edmunds after a foul on Jenkins, gave them a bonus lead after 20 minutes, the Casuals seemed content to settle down to a grim defensive battle.

It was a masterly defence, marshalled by their giant centre half Chris Joy, who made only one mistake. But was enough for the Wanderers' danger man Horseman to claim their equaliser in the 37th minute.

Wycombe monopolised the play in the tough and tearaway second half, but Joy's men withstood all the home forwards could hurl at them—though there was a little luck to go with their courage when one shot from Horseman scraped an upright and another from Worley hit the crossbar.